

TO THE DEAR CHILDREN:

BY J. J. VANDERREE.

I must say that the children have nobly done their part in writing for the paper; and it remains therefore my duty to perform my part, and so keep my promise. The good book tells us to be slow (that is to think well first) to promise, but quick to perform (that which we promise.) It is much better not to promise, than it is to promise and not perform. Boys and girls don't forget this. It does me good to read your good letters. The children of to-day have indeed a hard time of it, to resist the evil temptations that allure them on every hand; and the influence that evil companions would like to wield over them, to lead them astray. You must be ever on the watch and keep to the right, children. Some one, no doubt will tell you that "we had such a nice time at the dance the other night." I know little girls, that are not more than eight or ten years old, that are allowed by their parents to attend a ball. And some of these parents pretend to be good church members, too. Boys, some one, (and just as like as not this some one is a professor of Christianity) will ask you to take a chew of tobacco, or a puff at a pipe, or a stump of a cigar, or do something else that is not right in the sight of God. Boys, if they do, tell them you have positive orders not to do so; and if they want to know who gave you those orders tell them that they too have the same orders and that they had better obey it the same as you intend to do. You will find your orders recorded in the good old book the Bible, in Proverbs iv: 14, 15. Remember that forty or fifty years from now, the boys and girls of to-day, will fill our many penitentiaries, jails, and bad houses, as well as our colleges as professors, our pulpits and even our churches.

We have at our weekly prayer meetings sometimes as many as a dozen boys and girls and some of these little folks take right a hold and help us with the singing, and read a verse or two in the scriptures, which we older people appreciate very much. This is right; for these young souls should seek the Lord early and they shall surely find him. Hear him say, "Suffer the children and forbid them not to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. xix, 14. We hear, alas, too many testimonies of older Brethren and Sisters that they are sorry they did not give their hearts to Jesus when they were young. Children do not wait like we did but commence now to serve the Lord and you will never regret it.

I remain a friend of the children.
Cornell, Ill.

Every sinner reasons that if there is happiness in the heart there ought to be some sunshine in the face.

WOODLAND, MICH., Feb. 25th, 1894.
DEAR EDITOR:—Our school has closed and now I expect to help saw wood. We get forty cents a cord. There is meeting every four weeks. We have a good preacher. There isn't much sleighing here. Our preacher's name is J. G. Winey. He preaches at the Baptist church. We have a good neighborhood and good roads here. Well as I cannot think of anything more I will end.

MARION RUPE.

Your letter did very well, Marion, but we think you must have left out a few words for there was one sentence in which we could not tell what you wanted to say. Always read your letters after they are written and see if you have left out any words.

RED OAK, IA., Feb. 26th, 1894.

DEAR EDITOR:—I am thirteen years old. I have one brother and sister. We go to the Baptist Sunday school. We have no Brethren church here. My Sunday school teacher's name is Miss Lina Wilkerson, and our minister's name is F. P. Leach. Last year I missed only five Sundays at Sunday school and that was on account of sickness.

Truly,

CLEMMEN HENRICK.

We are glad to become acquainted with you, Clemma. We trust you will study the Bible well and accept all it teaches as the word of God.

FRIEDENS, PA., Feb. 25, '94.

DEAR EDITOR:—I am ten years old. I have three brothers and three sisters. My oldest sister is at Wilson College, at Chambersburg. My papa, mamma, three brothers and two sisters belong to the Brethren church. Bro. Hildebrand from Rosedale is our preacher. He had a protracted meeting in our church at Listie.

OLIVE E. SAYLOR.

How nice it will be when you and your sister give your hearts to God—a whole family for Christ.

LANARK, ILL., Feb. 26th, 1894.

DEAR EDITOR:—I will tell about our meetings. Brother Livengood has preached for us every night for three weeks. Eight have joined our church. We have good attendance at our Junior King's Children. Had about fifty-seven last Sunday evening. I go to church and Sunday school every Sunday. Emma Lichty is my teacher, we all like her. How many times does the word Lord occur in the Bible?

DELTA E. ROWLAND.

Delta your letter was perfect except that it had no address. The Bible says at the judgement day there will be many people who will say "Lord, Lord" but he will not hear them. In your next tell us why he will not hear them.

KUNKLE, OHIO, Feb. 25th, '94.

DEAR EDITOR:—I have two grandmas and one grandpa. My grandma Martin lives in Montpelier and my other grandma lives in sight of our house. I was to prayer-meeting to-day. We had a good congregation. I have some relatives living in Ashland, and would like to hear from them. My Aunt Betsy Markley was to see us some time ago.

Good-bye,
BERTHA EBERLY.

We hope you will come to see your aunt some day—and Aunt Etta, too

MILFORD, IND.

DEAR EDITOR:—I go to school. This is the first time I ever tried to write with ink. I will write nicer next time. I have one little brother and one little sister. I would not take a million dollars for her. I feel sorry for little Homer, I wish I could do something to help him so he could play like I do.

Good-Bye,

FREDDIE RENCH.

This is indeed a good letter, Freddie; it was written according to the rule and did not have one blot. All it lacked was the address and date. We happened to know where you live and so supplied the address.

BURLINGTON, IND., Feb 25th, 1894.

DEAR EDITOR:—I go to Sunday school nearly every Sunday here in town at the Christian church. We had a protracted meeting at Salem Brethren church. My father is a physician. My brother and I were baptized. I am only eleven years old and my brother is fourteen. We had communion services at the close of our meeting. Brother Summers is our pastor. I like to hear him preach. Our church is three miles from town. I will be twelve years old next month.

FANNIE GORDON.

This letter complied with our rule and had no blots. Put on the whole armor of God, Fannie, and be a good soldier. In your next letter tell us what the armor of God is.

NAPPANEE, INDIANA., Feb. 27th, 1894.

DEAR EDITOR:—I like to write for the paper. I like the paper because I like to read the children's letters. We are having a protracted meeting at Union Salem. Sister Dickey is holding the meeting. She has Bible reading every after-noon and meeting in the evening. Bro. Rensch began meeting at Nappanee Monday evening.

Your Friend,

CORA A. BECKNELL.

We are pleased to know you like to write for the paper. Your letter speaks well for you for it was neat and clean, and you kept our rule.

ANKNEYTOWN, OHIO, Feb. 27, '94.

DEAR EDITOR:—We have no Sabbath school now. But will organize again the last Sunday in March, My Uncle John Beal teaches our school, we like him very much. My papa teaches school, it will close next Friday and we are very glad, because he is about nine miles away from home. I hope when we hear from Homer again he will still be improving. I am thirteen years old. My papa, mamma and I belong to the Brethren church.

Good-Bye,

EDNA BEAL.

Yes, Edna, it is pleasant for a family to all be around the fire-side. A happy family has a foretaste of Heaven. Heaven will surpass it in that there will be no parting. Here we know that some day the happiest family must say good-bye to each other and part to meet no more till they all reach heaven.

When a man says amen right it always means that he is willing to be put down for his share of the expenses.